Communal violence in States

2640. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were incidents of communal violence in Goa, Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the country in last 2-3 months;

(b) whether there have also been bomb blasts in Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the country;

(c) if so, whether Union Government has asked for a report from these States on such incidents; and

(d) what type of assistance was provided to these States to check communal violence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There have been sporadic incidents of communal violence in Goa and Uttar Pradesh and bomb blasts in Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir and some parts of the country in the last 2-3 months. The Union Government has called for reports from the concerned State Governments wherever necessary.

(d) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are the State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. Keeping in view this Constitutional position, in order to check communal violence the Union Government assists the State Governments and the Union Territories Administrations in a variety of ways like sharing of infromation, sending alert messages, sending Central Forces to the concerned State Governments on specific request including the composite Rapid Action Force which has been specially created to deal with communal situations and in the modernization of the State Police Forces. The activities of all the individuals and the organizations having a bearing on communal harmony in the country are under constant watch of the law enforcement agencies and requisite legal action is taken, whenever necessary. The Union Government has also issued comprehensive Guidelines to promote Communal Harmony to all the States and Union Territories. The promotional efforts include observance of the annual programmes like 'Quami Ekta Week', conferment of 'Kabir Puraskar' and 'Communal Harmony' awards as well as providing grants to organizations engaged in the promotion of peace and communal harmony at ground level.

The Union Government has also introduced the Communal Violence (Prevention, Control and Rehabilitation of Victims) Bill, 2005 in the Rajya Sabha on 5.12.2005 which is currently before the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs.

Natural calamities under the ambit of NDMA

2641. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the natural calamities which come within the ambit of the National Disaster Management Authority;

(b) whether Government have identified 7 major natural calamities which come under the ambit of the NDMA;

(c) the criteria adopted by Government to include and focus on such natural calamities;

(d) whether it is also a fact that proper scrutiny was not done to properly select and identify the kin of disaster which would be addressed by the NDMA; and

(e) the steps proposed to review such subjects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) In the Disaster Management Act, 2005, "Disaster" has been defined as "a catastrophe, mishap, calamity, grave occurrence in any area, arising from natural or manmade causes, or by accident or negligence which results in substantial loss of life or human suffering or damage to, and destruction of, property, or damage to, or degradation of, environment, and is of such a nature or magnitude as to be beyond the coping capacity of the community of the affected area."

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.